Statement of Interest (SOI) – Community for Data Integration (CDI) FY 2014

CDI Science Support Framework Category: (SSF1) Management Policy and Standards

Project Title: An Integrated Dashboard for Project Tracking, Documentation, and Archiving at USGS Science Centers.

Lead USGS Cost Center: USGS Fort Collins Science Center (FORT)

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PROJECT SUMMARY:
Comprehensively tracking and managing the lifecycle of scientific projects and products has been a standing challenge within the USGS and across government agencies nationwide. To date, there is no single resource where USGS scientists, administrators, and data stewards can collectively view and harvest proposal materials, project abstracts, key dates, PI contacts, anticipated products, and other valuable information associated with ongoing science projects at the FORT. As projects move through their lifecycle, shared access to these materials becomes critically important as a necessary step in anticipating data storage and serving costs/needs, creating quality metadata, archiving data products, and finally making those finished products available to the scientific community. The team proposes developing a pilot application within the USGS to specifically address this data challenge by consolidating existing proposal and project tracking workflows, reducing the burden of documentation, and sharing informational resources among all parties involved in the Science Data Life Cycle.

Users will access the application via a Web dashboard. This dashboard will provide a location for PI's to upload proposal documents, identify key individuals, establish anticipated time lines, and provide a general description of anticipated products associated with a project when that project begins. Approving officials and administrators will have access to the dashboard, providing a 'one-stop shop' for necessary parties to view, access, and update materials as needed. Lastly, the Data Management Team at the FORT will share access to the dashboard where key project information can be harvested to provide a starting point for compliant and high quality metadata records for finished data products. The ability to track the status of projects as they progress will also help data stewards anticipate archival/storage and data distribution needs on an up-to-date basis. A significant hurdle to such an effort in the past has been the difficulty associated with harvesting project information from the BASIS + system; this system will not replace BASIS+ but will fill a long standing need left in the shortcomings of BASIS+'s functionality. In addressing these challenges the proposed dashboard will encapsulate and add transparency to the project tracking workflow, providing a structured chain of command and a convenient means for the various parties to complete the necessary tasks in shepherding a project from 'cradle to grave.'

Specifically, the work proposed in this project will meet a critical data management need among USGS scientists and staff by providing a necessary tool and a comprehensive framework to address the needs associated with data management and data stewardship.

The proposed effort will build upon and leverage the work being done in the CSC Project Tracking Lifecycle project, the Ecosystems Portfolio Analysis project, and the CSAS Scientific Data Management efforts by sharing code and integrated functionality with ScienceBase. Successful implementation of this tool will reduce the burden on scientists by eliminating the need to duplicate documentation or separately provide information about projects to administrators, center directors, metadata creators, and data stewards. Through a shared collaboration among FORT's Web Applications and Data Management Teams, this project will be developed in such a way to showcase how a successful tool like this can be integrated in the project workflow at a science center. Furthermore, scalability (sharing such a tool or framework across multiple science centers), will constitute a significant project goal so that design of the tool will provide a template or development 'boiler plate' for other USGS centers with similar needs.

PRODUCTS:

- USGS Open File Report (OFR)
- Working Pilot of Integrated Project Tracking Dashboard (Web Application)

ESTIMATED BUDGET:

Budget Category	Federal Funding "Requested"	Matching Funds "Proposed"
1. SALARIES (including Benefits):		
Personnel Total:	$	$74,666.75
Contract Personnel Total:	$36,462	$88,000.00
Total Salaries:	$36,462	$162,666.75
2. TRAVEL EXPENSES:		
Travel Total (Per Diem, Airfare, Mileage/Shuttle) **x** # of Trips:	$0	$200.00
Other travel expense (Registration fees):	$0	$0
Total Travel Expenses:	$0	$200
3. OTHER DIRECT COSTS: (itemize)		
Equipment (inc. software, hardware):	$	$0
Publication Costs:	$5,000.00	$0
Office supplies, Training, Other expenses:	$	$0
Total Other Direct Costs:	$5,000	$0
Total Direct Costs:	$41,462.00	$162,866.75
Indirect Costs (%):	$7,463.00	$0
GRAND TOTAL:	$48,925.00	$162,866.75